

Commander's Call Topics



Jan. 28, 2011

[Air Force chief of staff releases 2011 reading list](#)

"Effectively operating within our increasingly dynamic, interconnected and complex world requires steadfast commitment to personal and professional growth," Gen. Norton Schwartz said in a [letter to Airmen](#). "Therefore, professional reading will continue to be vital as we maintain our initiative today and prepare for the future. I am pleased to announce my [2011 reading list](#), which provides worthwhile options for all Airmen to further their professional education and augment their leadership skills."

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[AF Secretary recognizes AETC heroes](#)

"In our Air Force, we're surrounded by everyday heroes. The word 'hero' is Greek for 'protector' or 'defender,' and each Airman in our Air Force has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, so it sounds to me like you're defenders, which is English for that Greek word 'heroes.'"

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley from remarks at the Air Education and Training Command Ball held in conjunction with the AETC Symposium and Exposition

CSAF cites importance of joint approach to enhancing language skills

"Cultural understanding is extremely important to our ability to affect positive outcomes. As we pursue our national interests in an interconnected, globalized world, we must be cognizant not only of socio-economic and political institutions; we must genuinely and increasingly appreciate linguistic, regional, and cultural constructs."

– Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz from [remarks](#) at the Department of Defense Language and Culture Summit

CURRENT ISSUES

[Nuclear weapons center attains full operational capability](#)

The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, located at Kirtland AFB, N.M., has reached full operational capability. The center provides focused nuclear-sustainment oversight and standardization in support of the warfighter.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

[New fitness requirements for deploying Airmen](#)

Airmen preparing to attend Army-taught Combat Skills Training before deploying to a joint expeditionary tasking in direct support of combatant commander or joint task force ground component missions will be required to possess a current and passing fitness assessment. The new standards, which already apply to Air Force-taught Combat Airman Skills Training, take effect Feb. 1. For more information on JET, visit www.jetairmen.af.mil.

[Program helps service retain RPA, rated pilots](#)

The Aviator Continuation Pay program allows some active-duty, rated aviators to qualify for a monetary bonus in exchange for a service-commitment-contract agreement. Officials aim to retain those pilots who are approaching the end of their initial undergraduate flying training commitment as well as uncommitted pilots and eligible combat systems officers in the 12U Air Force specialty, who are trained as RPA pilots and have fewer than 13 years of service. For more information on ACP, visit the [Air Force personnel services website](#).

[Officials extend window for cross-flow applications](#)

Air Force officials are extending the application period for nonrated line officers in overmanned Air Force specialties to voluntarily apply for cross flow into undermanned career fields until Feb. 4. For more information about cross-flow opportunities and program criteria, visit the [Air Force personnel services website](#).

Officials aim to encourage absentee voting

Federal Voting Assistance Program officials will use winning entries from [slogan and poster contests](#) to encourage absentee voting in U.S. elections by service members, their families and other citizens living overseas. All U.S. citizens are eligible to enter, and the winning slogan and poster artwork will be featured on the program's website, its 2012-2013 Voting Assistance Guide and other motivational materials. The deadline for submissions is April 8, and winners will be announced April 29.

Award nominations due by March 15

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2011 [General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley](#) and [Spirit of Hope](#) awards to the [Air Force Personnel Center](#) is March 15.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

White House unveils new approach to military family support

White House officials have released a report that unveils a new, government-wide approach to military family support and details a sweeping, interagency effort under way to strengthen families and enhance their well-being and quality of life. From child care to health care to spouse employment, the report, titled "[Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment](#)," identifies the key issues military families face and presents programs and resources government agencies plan to roll out in the coming months to address them.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Air Force Association scholarship and grant opportunities

AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA has a variety of scholarships available for Airmen and their families. For more information, go to <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>.

TSP contribution limits set for 2011

Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board members announced the 2011 elective deferral limit for regular Thrift Savings Plan contributions will remain \$16,500, and TSP catch-up plan contribution limits will remain at \$5,500. For more information, visit www.tsp.gov.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

February is **National African American History Month**, celebrating the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepening our understanding of our nation's history.

This Week in Air Force History

Jan. 29, 1979 – E-3A Sentry aircraft assumed a continental air defense mission responsibility.

Feb. 1, 1952 – The U.S. Air Force acquired its first general-purpose, high-speed digital computer, a vacuum-tube-based Univac I.

Feb. 3, 1961 – Strategic Air Command initiated the Looking Glass airborne command post. Maintaining continuous 24-hour coverage in shifts, Looking Glass aircraft were equipped to communicate with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, any SAC base or any SAC aircraft.

Feb. 3, 1995 – U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen M. Collins became the first woman space shuttle pilot.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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